

B-3028 - B-3035  
740-720 Light St. (West side)  
Baltimore, Md.  
Private access

1860-1884

This group of three story high, two bay wide brick buildings with shed roofs and Italianate-style bracketed cornices was built by several different builders in the early 1860's and in the 1880's (734-740 Light St.) The 1860's houses at the northern end of the block were built to serve a combined residential/commercial function and the original storefronts are still intact at 720-722, 724, and 726 Light St. 734-740 Light St. were built as residences but 740 has most recently served as a local bar/restaurant. The houses are currently unoccupied, but have recently been sold by the city to private owners and are awaiting renovation and rehabilitation.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3035  
MAGI 0430352504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

720-722 Light St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

\_\_\_DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_SITE

\_\_\_OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

\_\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_\_BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

\_\_\_OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: restoration

contemplated

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mayor and City Council

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21202

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE  
Maryland 21202

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT      ☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☐ FAIR             ☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This pair of three story, two bay brick houses with shed roof and bracketed cornice was built in the early 1870's and possibly replaced an earlier structure on this site. The first floor area of both houses has been combined and converted into a single store-front, which seems last to have served as a bar/restaurant.

The houses are three stories in height, about 12 1/2' wide, and occupy lots 75' deep. Originally each house was one long room deep with a two story high, two bay deep rear addition. The addition of 720 Light St., however, has since had a third story added, so that now 720 Light St. extends back along Hughes St., with a three story height, for four bays. The houses are constructed in running bond. The shed roof is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding supported by a row of carved modillions set above a plain frieze area. Three carved brackets support the entire cornice. The houses originally shared a paired, centrally located rear end chimney, located at the west end of the addition. Today, half of this chimney survives at 722 Light St. 722 Light St. also has a later one story high, two bay deep frame rear addition. Each house has a double rectangular chimney located along the north side of the main house.

The doorway and second floor window openings have splayed brick lintels; the third floor window openings have no lintels. All of the sills are wood. Currently, all of the window openings are boarded. The first floor areas of both houses have been combined and converted into a single store-front. The entrance is located in the northernmost bay, flanked by a three-sided, slightly projecting shop window. In the southernmost bay, the original doorway for 722 Light St. now leads into a long hallway which ends in stairs leading to the residence above. The three bay store-front is interestingly articulated with vertical wooden panels framing the shop windows and the door area. There are single panels on each end and double panels in the middle. Each panel is divided into three sections--an upper capital decorated with leafy carvings, a shaft section, and a base section, defined by a plain molded border. The glass paneled door is set beneath a single light transom. The entire store-front area is capped by a stamped sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by a row of modillions and four brackets set against a plain wooden frieze. The entrance is reached by one wide stone step.

The interior of the combined store-front is currently fitted with a long wood paneled bar. The tin ceiling is still intact and the walls are sheathed in vertical wainscoting. The stairs to the second floor are located in a hallway beyond the main room. The interior of 722 Light St. is in close to original condition, with the tightly winding stairs leading to a second floor with two rooms in the main section of the house (the front room with fireplace) and a single rear room. A set of narrow stairs located between the two rooms in the main part of the house leads to two third floor rooms. At 720 Light St. the original stairs have been replaced by a straight flight which leads to a second floor with double front parlor and rear kitchen. There are three rooms on the third floor.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

B-3035

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES    early 1870's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Michael Ryan

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This pair of houses is representative of the fairly small group of three story Victorian-style houses built in the Federal Hill area after the Civil War to serve as residences. The houses seem to have replaced two story, gable roofed houses built by Peter Gold before 1820 as part of his development of this side of Light St. The current interior treatment of the first floor area as a bar/restaurant probably dates from soon after 1909, when the houses were sold by the Ryan family.<sup>1</sup> The houses are interesting for the surviving details of the bar/restaurant area--the bar itself set in the center of the room and the tin plate ceiling and vertical wainscoting.

The houses are currently being offered for sale by the City to private owners and will hopefully soon be renovated.

<sup>1</sup>Baltimore City Land Records, Liber SCL 2506, Folio 222

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. &amp; Eccles

DATE

5/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

ST.

CT.

701  
160'-6"

370'-6"



SEE LOT 4 BLK. 887 FOR 71/72

ALLEY

370'-6"

TRUST

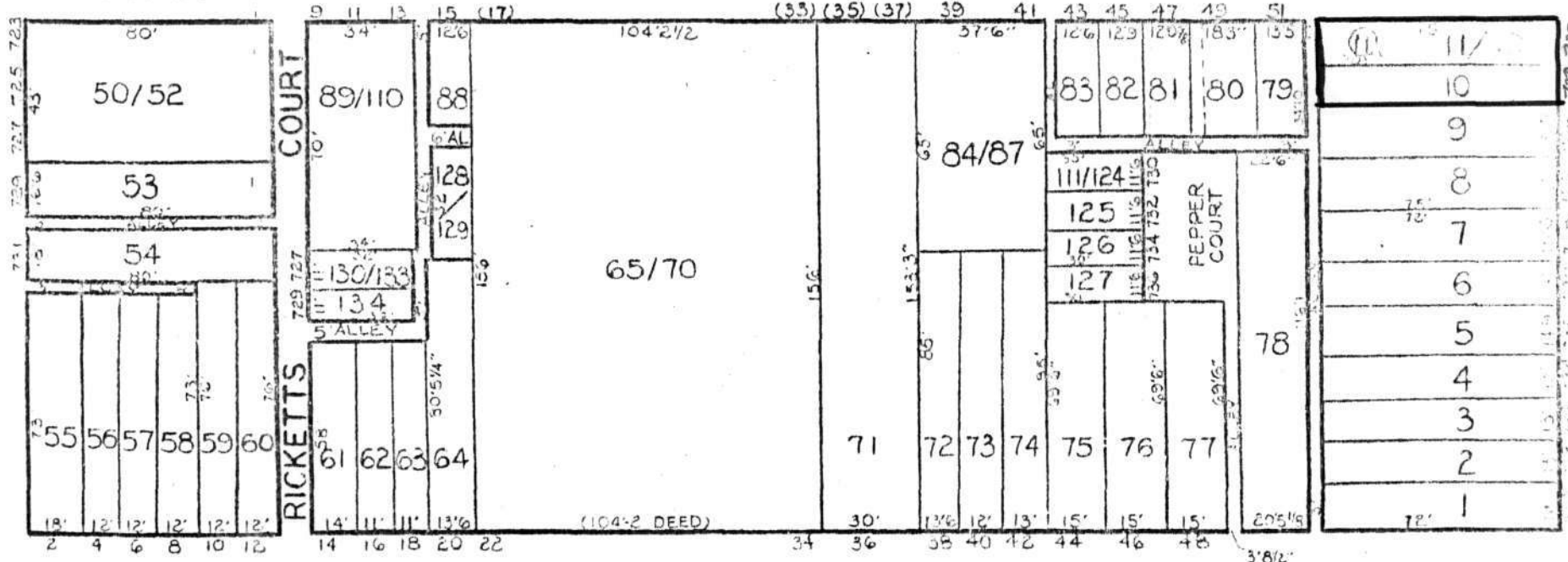
E. HUGHES

S. CHARLES

B-3038

LIGHT

ST.

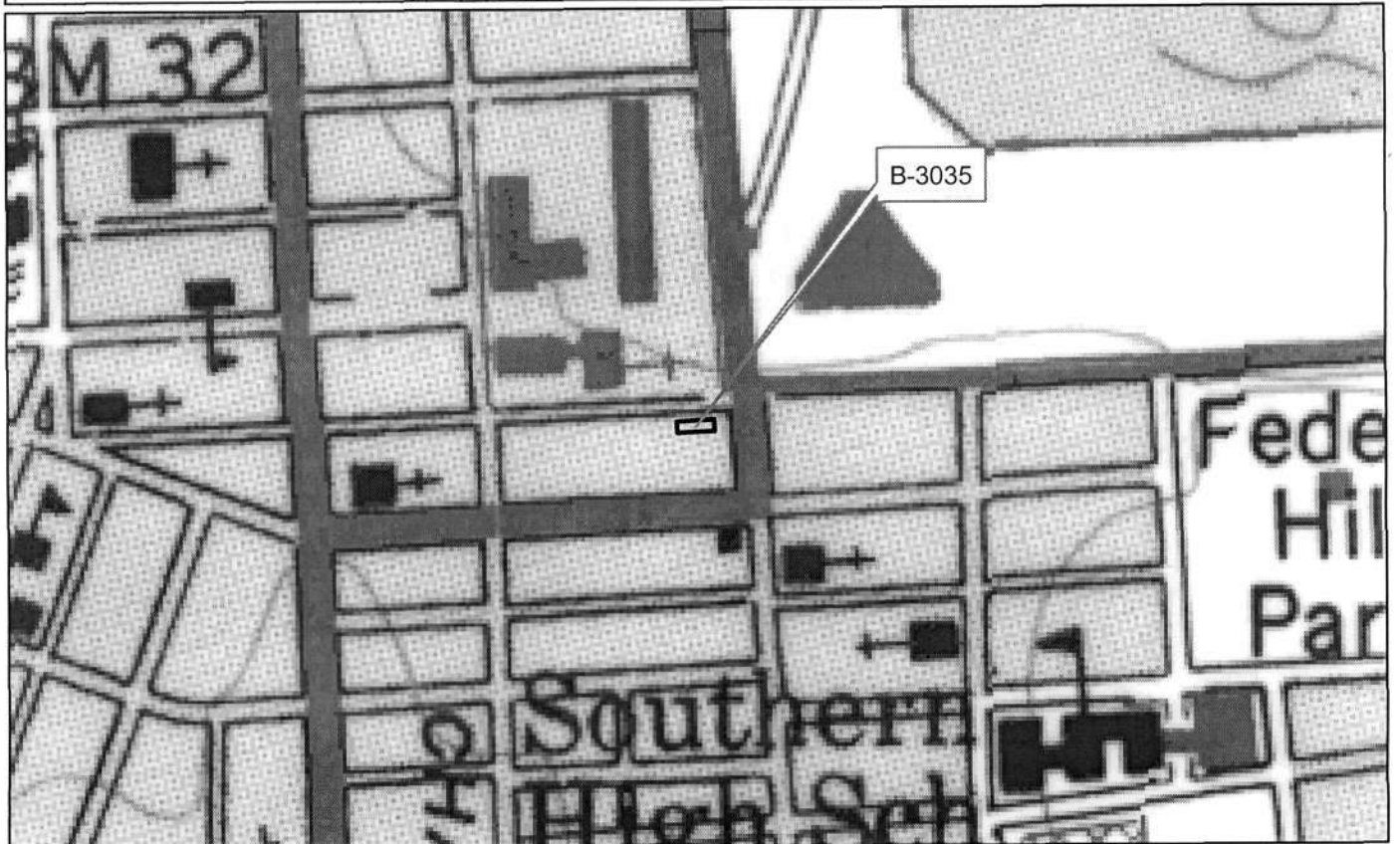


E. MONTGOMERY

ST.



B-3035  
720-722 Light Street  
Block 0896 Lots 010  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-3035

720-722 Light St.

M.E.H.

6/79

East elevation